Hello West Side!

I am happy to bring you a little good news. The elders decided that we will begin meeting together at the building again on Sunday, June 14th. For now, we will be doing two services each Sunday at the building and need to limit the number of attendees at each service to keep proper social distancing measures in place. There will be no classes, no Sunday night activities or Wednesday night classes offered onsite until further notice.

We initially plan to conduct one service at 8:00am and one at 11:00am with a thorough cleaning between. We are asking those who are older or have health conditions that place them at a higher risk, to attend the first service. We plan to try to keep the numbers lower for your protection during that service.

We will broadcast the 11:00am service to the usual places and in the usual way. If you attend that service, expect the stage to look as it does online. You will need to sign up online or call the office to indicate which service you plan to attend (the link will be on our website). This will help us manage the numbers of attendees.

We intend to comply, with the Department of Health guidelines for public gatherings. Those who attend services will be expected to wear face masks at all times (taking communion excepted) while inside. We will need to observe social distancing (6’ minimum distance) at all times including parking lots, entering the building, seating (family units may sit together), bathroom use and fellowship. Frequent hand washing/sanitizing will be encouraged.

You will be asked to bring your own communion supplies if possible (some will be available in the auditorium for you to pick up on arrival if needed) and baskets will be left at the auditorium doors for contributions so that we do not need to pass trays.

Upon entering the building, a volunteer will take us to our seats and when the service is over, we will need to exit the building promptly. Visiting and fellowship should be done outside only. We ask that everyone take their temperature before they come and stay home if not feeling well. All precautionary measures will be lifted once it is deemed safe to do so.

Some may choose to exercise the option to stay at home and watch online or meet in one of our home groups (smaller groups meeting in homes to watch the online service – more info at westsidear.org). Each of those options are acceptable and even advisable for some.

As you know, the stakes are particularly high on this. It only takes one infected person to make others sick with a potentially life-threatening illness. The publicity we could receive if there is an outbreak at one of our gatherings would be unwelcome and harmful. Anyone unwilling to comply with the stated safety measures should stay home.

There will be more information on our website (westsidear.org) and the West Side Friends and Family page (on Facebook). Please feel free to call the office or one of the ministers with any questions you may have.

For the Elders and Ministers,

Tim Tripp